MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know whether there was a statement of accounts prepared for 1119?

MR. K. R NARAYANA AIYAR: Accounts have been prepared from the commencement of the work for every year and what is being done is a regular audit of those figures for the preparation of balance sheet.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: Am I to take it there was the preparation of accounts from year to year but there was no audit from year to year?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Audit is being done under the supervision of a special staff on a comprehensive basis from the commencement.

MR. P. O THOMAS: My question was whether there was the preparation of accounts from year to year but no audit from year to year? Am I right?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I have already stated that accounts have been prepared and kept from the commencement and audit is being done by a separate staff.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: My question was whether there was any audit of accounts in the years 1119, 1120 and 1121?

PRESIDENT: The honourable member wishes to know whether there was a concurrent audit?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No, Sir.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Can I take it that according to the figures now presented the transactions have resulted in a profit of 25·38 lakhs in the matter of purchase of food grains?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: It cannot be taken like that. The actual amount of profit can be ascertained only after making certain adjustments, payment of replacement cost and the like relating to purchase of food grains from different centres.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: What will be the approximate amount that may be required for making adjustments?

PRESIDENT: We are likely to get a small profit of Rs. 10 lakhs.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know what are the items under "overhead charges"?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Certain officers have been appointed in the Food Department. Salaries and travelling expenses as well as other supervision charges are the items referred to.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: In view of the fact that we may get a small profit may I ask why not Government think of giving a better price for the local paddy?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: That can be decided only after the accounts have been completely audited, and the results known.

Shortage of rice.

161. *MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government are aware of the seriousness of the food situation arising from the shortage of rice supply

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MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: What is the standard to be fixed in the matter of daily rations?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: About 36 thousand tons are needed for consumption in a month according to the present enumeration.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: What is the amount of ration to be fixed for a person?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: 10 ounces.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: Have the Government taken steps to supplement this ration by the addition of tapioca and fish?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: May I know in which division such steps have been taken?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The Tahsildars have been instructed to make tapioca available and to distribute it.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: Has it been done anywhere?

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether the Government have enquired whether such measures have been brought into force by Tahsildars?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, Sir, we have information that several Tahsildars are doing this.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: What are the taluks where that procedure is in force?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I cannot say off hand.

Shortage in foodgrains depot.

162. * MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there was any shortage in any Government foodgrains depot; and

(*b*) if so, the largest quantity found short in any single depot?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) The shortage if any can be determined only on the completion of the stock audit which is now in progress.

(*b*) This could be found out only after the shortage in all the depots is ascertained.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Sir, my question was: "whether there was any shortage in any Government Foodgrains Depot; and if so, the largest quantity found short in any single depot". The answer is: The shortage, if any can be determined only on the completion of the stock audit which is now in progress. I wish to put a supplementary question whether any shortage in any depot was brought to the notice of the Government or the department?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No, Sir. The whole thing is being examined. A complete physical verification of the stock has been made and the stock audit which is now in progress will revea whether there is any shortage or not.

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